

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data control method includes the steps of: A) at least one of the following steps: A-1) embedding prohibition information in data, wherein copying of the data is to be prohibited; and A-2) embedding the prohibition information and N pieces of permission information in the data (N is a natural number), wherein the copying of the data is to be permitted N times; and B) detecting the prohibition and/or permission information prior to the copying of the data. In the case where the permission information is detected from the data prior to the copying of the data, at least one of the N pieces of permission information in the data is invalidated, and then the copying of the data is permitted. In the case where the permission information is not detected from the data, and the prohibition information is detected from the data prior to the copying of the data, the copying of the data is prohibited.

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